

Minutes: Scenic Foothills Community Council – March 3, 2016

SCENIC FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SFCC) 03MAR2016 MEETING 1900 Call to Order: President Mark HILL.

1901 Approval of Minutes: (copies available at door with sign in/up sheets). Bill 1st/Jamie 2nd - approved

Candidate & Ballot Proposition Forum (3 minute Opening Statement each, with 10 minutes For Questions)
MOA Assembly

1903 Forrest DUNBAR: Running for Paul's seat since Dec. 2015. #1 public safety is a huge concern: gunshots. #2: property tax issue. 4% of land is taxable so most of the taxes come from home owners. Quality of life: parks, communities, trails, etc.

1906 Terre GALES: from New Jersey. USAF Vet, been all over the Middle East. Police Officer. Back to Iraq. Alaska is home. Wife is from East Anchorage. Saved to buy a house and is afraid of the tax cap.

1909

QUESTIONS: gun question – how can we improve public safety?

Terre: must have more cops and community policing. Get to know them, build trust, ask, share, etc.

Forrest: agrees with Terre – we're falling behind and need to get more police. Neighborhood watch. Revenue funding. Marijuana taxes, etc. Nip small crimes in the bud.

Taxes question: 4.3% increase in property taxes – how do we cut?

Forrest: overlap between Muni and ASD – combine departments, IT examples. Willing to go line by line through budget to find cuts. We're in better shape as a city than we are as a State.

Terre: look at how we spend. Fleet Services is an example - \$600/month per vehicle forever. Road maintenance: for fixing and building roads and they don't last 10 years only 4. P&L – look line by line. Spend wisely. Get the community involved.

Problem Drinkers Question / red stripe card: 85% of people in 4th Avenue jail is from alcohol. How do we use the red stripe?

Terre: if we print it, we must use it. Father is a drug addict – knows about abuse – treatment won't fix everybody.

Forrest: the power of CHARR: <http://www.alaskacharr.com/> We need to get people treatment. Get them off the streets. It's a large societal problem.

Education / academic question:

Forrest: vocation problems, Benny Benson, working towards 20/20 goals, vibrant young people with high quality teachers; he taught two years in Peace Corps. Don't just let them drop out – we end up paying for them in the end if they do drop out.

Terre: getting problem kids to show them something different. We need to come together as a community and show those kids what else is out there. A mentor is super important. Show them!

Whole lot of agreement. Why you?

Terre: because I know what people in this community are going through. He grew up poor and hungry. Diversity and those who understand what those people are going through. I lived it. I carried it with me my entire life.

Forrest: grew up in Alaska most of his life; don't disagree on much. He has worked in Juneau with legislators. Amazed that people who grew up here. Generations. Wants to help the State, the City and especially East Anchorage.

ANC School Board

SEAT A

1919 Bettye DAVIS This is her district and CC. She's been here for 44 years. Been on the board x3 years. She has something to offer that nobody else does. Passion for education and children. In the 80's she was also on the school board. Seen a lot of changes. Doing perfect now? No. increase our goals which we've already set for ourselves. If you're not in school you cannot learn. Close the gap. Wants to be a part of closing the gap.

1922 Brent HUGHES Running for kids. Here for 25 years. Created three major breakthroughs in math. Spent his whole life with kids. Loves math. Carol Comeau didn't want anything to do with his one-hour time table; testimonials all over the USA. Carol still

wouldn't see him. Nobody on the school board will do anything with his three major breakthroughs. Will stay afterwards for parents to talk about his breakthroughs.

SEAT B

1928 David NEES / David Boyle is standing in for Nees. From England, been all over the place. 28 years in the school district. Kids first. More resources in the classroom. ½ the money in the ASD does not make the classroom. Effective teachers. Better curriculum. Motivate the students from within / or with a very motivated teacher.

1931 Kay Ellen SCHUSTER: born and raised in Anchorage. Teaching x 17 years as a special education teacher. Department Chair now with five schools. After children moved around to a lot of other schools. Talks to teachers and admins. I believe our teachers are working extremely hard to fill achievement gaps. Budget will impact our school district. Wants small class sizes. Wants proficient readers by 3rd grade. Making strides right now. Wants kids to graduate college ready or work ready.

1934 Starr MARSETT: time to move from making recommendations to being on the board. On the front lines since North Star School Bureau. PTA a lot. 2001 ANC served on many boards and committees. Has looked at many of the schools. Substitute teacher for 4-5 years. 16 years of financial experience. I've been thinking and proposing these things. Achievement gap hasn't changed in many years with no changes in the future. Biggest challenge: teaching students to read.

1937 QUESTIONS

Charter Schools / Private schools / public school funds going into private schools. Vouchers:

Nees: thinks the parents should be held responsible for education of their children. Let the parents choose.

Marsett: against vouchers. Getting parents involved? Charter school statistics aren't that great. Mainstreaming

Hughes: for vouchers.

Davis: No. Choice for parents but you cannot take public funds who can pay for their kids' education. Our Charter schools are public schools.

SCHUSTER: does not agree with the voucher system at this time. We should restructure our current schools.

Motivate students/teachers?

Nees: need quality control in the classroom. If non-effective teacher in the classroom, they need to leave and go to another job.

Dried up monies / decrease costs / increase education

Nees: transportation – send them all through the contractors. Give all buildings to city.

Schuster: school district has become parents: feeding, clothing them, etc. Parents should be doing this. Admin needs to be cut – it's 3x bigger than other districts the same size. Cut food. Cut transportation.

Davis: budget must balance. Laying off 52 teachers.

Brent: I know nothing about this. Math & science expert. Will talk with the parents. Will teach kids how to do math. Gut the entire math department. Will fire *** immediately!

Marsett: will ask: how does this benefit the child? If it doesn't we shouldn't do it. Need a strategic plan that gets us to our goals.

Replacement Superintendent:

Marsett: somebody who is transparent. Graff is great and has our kids' education in his heart, but it takes more than that.

NEES: Leader! What they are. Can do. Think outside the box. Move out of the box. Accountable. Held responsible.

Davis: Nobody will be perfect. What have you done in your past school district? What do you care about? There's no perfect person. Voice should be heard. Community should get involved.

Brent: somebody who will listen about his math/science/etc.

Schuster: business background

PROPOSITIONS

1947 Bond Projects for 48 Million (Roads, Drainage, Parks & Recreation, and Emergency Services)

Anchorage Tomorrow – advocates for the bonds. Educate yourself by going to their website. \$36 million in bonds will retire this year. Bids are coming in 20% lower than in the past – which is new. What happens to left over cash? CIP projects. Muni.org

2057 School Bond Proposal for \$49 Million for Life Safety & Building Protection Projects. Higgins gave update. Mt. Iliamna extra monies for them. Planning to move the school off JBER.

2005 Marijuana Retail Sales Tax: no applications received. May raise up to 12%

Old Business:

2010 Chugach Foothills Connector trail – Proposed Resolution

Karen BRONGA

Thank you everybody.

Lots of momentum.

Klutina to Regal Mountain

Mayor is involved a little bit.

UAA Engineering students are working on this from Regal Mountain Drive to Benny Benson / Campbell Airstrip Road. Tom will meet with stakeholders tomorrow. Moving forward Forrest 1st / Jamie 2nd. Unanimous!

Pete PETERSEN

School board

U Med

MJ ordinances

Muni going forward with new SAP contract

1.5-1.6 Million budget hole

Cell towers 3/14 P&C and 3/22

Pat HIGGINS

Next Door

Community Council Education

Join us for our next meeting on April 07! (Gunnar KNAPP on Alaskan Economy & State Budget)

All Committees open for additional members “Pick a Committee and Get Involved!”